

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-13 SSM-03 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /094 W

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R 241424Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1581

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 7058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: NATIONAL UNITY FRONT CURRENT EFFORTS

REF: (A) BEIRUT 5829, (B) BEIRUT 6268

1. SUMMARY: NATIONAL UNITY FRONT (NUF) SPOKESMAN MIKAEL DAHER SAYS NUF HAS HAD LITTLE SUCCESS TO DATE IN PROMOTING LEBANESE DIALOGUE. ISLAMIC GROUP FINDS ITSELF IN DILEMMA BETWEEN UNDERTAKING CONTACTS WITH JUNBLATTI NATIONAL MOVEMENT, FOR THE SAKE OF DIALOGUE, AND BEING USED IN THE PROCESS BY JUNBLATT TO STRENGTHEN HIS CLAIM TO SPEAK FOR MOSLEM MASSES.
END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF MET WITH AKKAR DEPUTY MIKAEL DAHER AUG 22.

DURING DISCUSSION, FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED:

3. NATIONAL UNITY FRONT (NUF). IN CONTRAST WITH HIS EARLIER ENTHUSIASM FOR ROLE NUF COULD PLAY IN PROMOTING LEBANESE-LEBANESE DIALOGUE (REFTELS), DAHER SAID NUF HAD BEEN TRYING FOR ALMOST TWO MONTHS TO INVOLVE KEY LEBANESE LEADERS OF ALL PERSUASIONS IN SERIOUS DIALOGUE, BUT HAS HAD

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LITTLE SUCCESS. ONLY IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE HAS BEEN

RECENT SALAM-GEMAYEL MEETING, BUT EVEN THAT DID NOT GO BEYOND PLATITUDES. NUF IS TRYING TO ARRANGE MEETINGS BETWEEN GEMAYEL AND ARAFAT, AND BETWEEN GEMAYEL AND JUNBLATT, BUT JUNBLATT IS NOT INTERESTED AT PRESENT TIME, AND ARAFAT IS UNWILLING TO DO ANYTHING WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN EFFORTS TO ISOLATE JUNBLATT FROM MODERATE MOSLEM LEADERSHIP.

4. ISLAMIC GROUP. DAHER SAID SALAM WAS NOT PLEASED WIOH RECENT EFFORTS BY CHAFIC WAZZAN TO BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN ISLAMIC GROUP AND JUNBLATT'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT. SALAM, DAHER SAID, IS WILLING TO TALK TO JUNBLATT DIRECTLY, AS INDIVIDUAL, BUT NOT TO RECOGNIZE JUNBLATT AS LEADER OF LEFTIST COALITION, WHICH SALAM (AND DAHER) SEE AS DEVOID OF LEGITIMACY AND EXISTING ONLY BECAUSE OF PALESTINIAN AND FOREIGN FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

5. ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT. DAHER SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE FORMER PRESIDENT CHARLES HELOU WOULD REPRESENT LEBANON. WHEN EMBOFF NOTED THAT PRESS HAD RECENTLY SPECULATED THAT ELIAS SARKIS MIGHT HEAD LEBANESE DELEGATION (SEE SITREP AUG 20), DAHER SAID IT WOULD NOT BE GOOD IDEA FOR SARKIS TO EXPOSE HIMSELF AT PRESENT TIME, ESPECIALLY SINCE SUMMIT MEETING ITSELF HAD LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

HELOU WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO KARAME.
HUNT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NATIONAL UNIFICATION, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT07058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760324-0135
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760827/aaaaawrp.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 5829, 76 BEIRUT 6268
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL UNITY FRONT CURRENT EFFORTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE, (DAHER, MICHEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006